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ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

October 5, 1960

Arms of Friendship, Inc.

X

X

Mr. H. J. Gibbons, Executive Assistant to the General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 25 Louisiana Avenue, N. W., Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

On August 9, I wrote to you in connection with your trip to the USSR and sent you some materials on Arms of Friendship. I wonder if you have had an opportunity to give consideration to the materials I mentioned.

An early reply would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Bryan L. Milburn
Major General, U.S. Army, Ret.
President

BLM/rar

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FROM TAXABLE INCOME



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4150 HENRY AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA 44, PENNA.
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August 9, 1960

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Mr. H. J. GIBBONS, Executive Assistant to the General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 25 Louisiana Avenue, N. W., Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

Recently I became president of Arms of Friendship and your letter of June 1 to Mr. Pending has been brought to my attention.

According to the correspondence, you made a trip to the USSR in July. I hope the folders we sent you proved helpful during your journey. We are most anxious to have your reactions to your visit. For this purpose, I am enclosing a questionnaire and would appreciate your filling out such parts of it as may be appropriate.

Within the past two weeks we initiated a Hospitality Program which has already had a fine response. We feel that this program will go a long way toward accomplishing the overall objectives of Arms of Friendship. I am including two copies of the letter and enclosures we sent out which may be of interest to you. Possibly you or your staff could help us in connection with this program. We could furnish additional copies of both the letter and enclosures if desired.

As you know, Arms of Friendship is a non-profit, non-political and privately supported endeavor. While it conforms to overall U. S. policies, it will not, as a matter of principle, accept government funds. Although this places us in a better position to achieve the objectives of Arms of Friendship, it does mean that we have to look to organizations and individuals for financial support. If you feel that your fine organization could make a contribution to this important work, we would be most grateful.

Sincerely,

Bryan L. Milburn
Bryan L. Milburn
Major General, U.S. Army, Ret.
President

SLM/rar
Enc. Traister's Questionnaire
2 sets Hospitality Program

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FROM TAXABLE INCOME

Arms of Friendship would be most interested in learning of your experiences as a recent traveler to the USSR. We would particularly appreciate any reactions or suggestions you might have for our future programs, covered by the questions below.

* * * * *

1. Traveler Contacts with Russians:

What specific suggestions would you make to help Americans traveling in the USSR to meet as many Russians as possible on an unofficial, direct, personal level?

- (a) In what sort of places might such contacts be established?
- (b) How could Americans be invited into Russian homes?
- (c) Would language be an insurmountable barrier? How could this be overcome? Did you use a dictionary or phrase book? If so, was it effective? Title?

2. Souvenirs and Gifts for Russians:

- (a) What items would you suggest that American travelers take with them to leave as souvenirs for Russians they meet?
- (b) What gifts could be sent by Americans who are corresponding with Russians? What would be well received?

3. Letter-writing to Russians:

- (a) Do you think Russians would like to correspond with Americans?
- (b) Do you have any suggestions that would help Americans in initiating correspondence and keeping it going? What should Americans write about?

4. Soviet Veterans and Their Families:

- (a) Were you ever conscious that Russians you met were veterans of World War II? Did you notice any from external signs (amputees, scars), or did any tell you?
- (b) Did you note any particular attitudes toward war or towards Americans among veterans or their families (widows, orphans, etc.)?
- (c) Did you observe any evidence of the influence of women that could ultimately contribute to greater receptiveness to information from the outside world?



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JEWISH WAR VETERANS

July 27, 1960

HOSPITALITY PROGRAM FOR SOVIET VISITORS

Arms of Friendship, Inc., would like to bring to your attention a new program in the hope that you will assist us with it.

Over the past few years more and more Americans have been visiting the USSR. There have also been increasing numbers of Soviet delegations and tourists coming to the United States, both under official exchanges and through travel agencies. In spite of recent events on the international political scene, we are advised by representatives of the Soviet travel agency, Intourist, and of the State Department that such exchanges are continuing and will probably broaden. We are also hopeful that Soviet veterans will accept the invitations of U.S. counterparts and come to the United States to stay as guests in American homes.

In order that these Soviet visitors may have a full opportunity to see how Americans live - at home, work and play - Arms of Friendship has proposed a program of home hospitality, outlined in the enclosed extracts of our letter to Intourist. The effective implementation of this proposal, to which State Department officials have found no objection, requires the active participation of many persons throughout the country. We hope you are ready to lend a hand. If so, could you give careful consideration to the enclosed questions and return the completed form together with any additional comments you would care to make.

We are looking forward to working with you on this program to improve American-Soviet relations on a people-to-people basis. In view of current tensions and misunderstandings on a governmental level, we feel this type of personal contact is of particular importance right now.

Sincerely yours,

Bryan L. Milburn
Major General, U.S. Army, Ret.
President

Enc. Extract Letter
to Intourist
Hospitality Program -
Host Data

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FROM TAXABLE INCOME

EXTRACTS OF LETTER to Mr. Ankudinov, President
Intourist, Moscow, dated June 9, 1960

* * * * *

Because increasing numbers of Soviet travellers are visiting the United States as tourists and under other exchanges, we have received numerous suggestions expressing the hope that Arms of Friendship could assist in arranging home hospitality by American counterparts for Soviet veterans. We feel this would be a worthy extension of our activities and are ready to work out a program along the following lines:

1. Arrangements for the Soviet travellers to come to the United States would be made as usual through appropriate Governmental channels and with an American travel agency.

2. We would be informed in advance of the proposed itinerary. At the same time we would like to be furnished with some information on each traveller that could aid us in finding American hosts of similar background and interests. This information could be given us directly by your organization or perhaps by the U.S. travel agency involved, whichever you feel would be preferable.

3. On this basis, we would make arrangements for American host families to extend hospitality to the Soviet traveller during his trip. Wherever possible we shall find homes in which common interests exist and where a member of the host's family or a friend speaks a common language with the Soviet guest. We will try to make sure that an interpreter is available at all times when needed.

4. Hospitality could range from inviting the guest for a meal, or taking him to places or events in which he is interested, to having the visitor stay as his house guest. The extent of hospitality would depend, of course, on the host's capabilities and the guest's desires.

This program would entail no extra expense for the traveller. Yet we feel sure it would greatly increase the value of his trip by giving him opportunities to see more of our country and letting him meet more Americans, particularly veterans. Ideally, we would hope that every Soviet traveller could eventually be extended such hospitality throughout his entire trip. Practically, it would be desirable to start with a trial program - on a limited scale in a few areas - and later expand as the idea develops.

We would be most interested in learning of your reaction to this proposed program. Any suggestions or improvements you care to recommend would be greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to being of service to Soviet travellers in the United States. By so doing, we hope we can help increase the mutual understanding and friendship which has been lacking for so long between our countries. Certainly this would be a step ahead on the difficult road to lasting peace.

Sincerely yours,

Bryan L. Milburn
Major General, U.S. Army, Ret.
President

HOSPITALITY PROGRAM FOR SOVIET VISITORS
Host Data

ARMS OF FRIENDSHIP, Inc.
4450 Henry Ave., Phila. 44, Pa.
GT. Antwn 8-0107

Name: _____ Home Phone _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____ Age: Young _____ Middle _____ Older _____

Organization or Firm: _____ Business Phone: _____

Business Address: _____

Special Interests (Talents, hobbies): _____

Languages spoken in family: well _____
(or by available friends) some _____

I am (We are) ready to receive Soviet guests _____; (Check appropriate below
for an afternoon _____; for an evening: _____; for meals _____;
as house guests _____ for _____ night(s), for _____ person(s);
other entertainment, such as, _____

I (We) would be happy to show Soviet visitors around _____; (Check appropriate
below)
my place of work _____; local institutions _____; places of interest to him _____
other activities (clubs, sports, vets groups, etc.) such as _____

I (We) would like to help make arrangements for: transportation _____,
interpreters _____, additional hosts _____, other _____

I am (We are) prepared to provide funds _____ and/or help raise money _____ to
assist local hospitality groups defray expenses incurred in implementing
this program: _____

Names and addresses of other persons or groups who might be interested in this
program: _____

Comments or Suggestions: _____



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4150 Henry Ave., Phila. 44, Pa.
GRamartown 8-0107

Name: _____ Home Phone _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____ Age: Young _____ Middle _____ Older _____

Organization or Firm: _____ Business Phone: _____

Business Address: _____

Special Interests (Talents, hobbies): _____

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(or by available friends) some _____

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Comments or Suggestions: _____